

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Employment and Transportation
Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Teleconference
Meeting Date
October 8, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Lucy Odden – Chair
Sharon Miranda
Sean O'Brien
Alexis Henning
Erin Atwood
David Levy
Shanna McPheters

Staff:

Rich Sanders

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:02 p.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements or Good News

David Levy reported that Channel 2 aired a news story regarding the issue of accessible taxi service in Anchorage and the challenges people with disabilities have, particularly people with mobility impairments. Lucy Odden commented that she thought the news report was well done.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

David Levy **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Reports

Legislative Research Report on Education and Employment Information for Alaskans with Disabilities

Rich Sanders received a copy of the research report requested by Representative Millett on the education and employment information for Alaskans with disabilities from Legislative Research. He stated that the report basically consisted of three pages of information and statistics from the population survey, and then essentially a copy of the Social Security Red Book on the SSDI and SSI programs and associated work incentives for the Ticket to Work program. Rich commented that it is a starting point that the committee will continue to build on.

Old Business

Integrated Employment Initiative Grant Update

Rich Sanders reported that regarding the Integrated Employment Initiative grant, the advisory board held a meeting last week where the management team and all the advisory board members met for an all-day meeting to share information and updates. He commented that overall the grant is on task for completing the majority of the activities for the first year.

Rich Sanders reported that he received good advice from the advisory board, particularly on the policies and regulations, recommending they provide Division of Senior & Disability Services with a detailed explanation of customized employment and the use of the discovery model for home and community-based waiver services for supported employment. This will help them to define what they should approve in the waiver plans. He commented that the main focus of the grant is to look across systems at discovery and customized employment and come to an agreement so that whether it is with Public Assistance, DVR, or Job Center's Ticket to Work program, there will be agreement on customized employment across the board amongst agencies that meet the standards.

Rich Sanders reported that there is a basics course training scheduled for November 18th – 20th, 2013 in Juneau. They are looking to involve agencies that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and also looking for a cross-systems model, so they will be inviting community rehabilitation providers for DVR, behavioral health providers, and Job Center staff.

Rich Sanders stated that the Council has made a job offer for an employment program coordinator that will begin on Monday. He also introduced Shanna McPheters, who is the supported employment programs coordinator for Behavioral Health. She will be traveling to Juneau with Rich where he will introduce her to the various agencies and the Department of Labor. Her focus will be to follow up on the activities of the Disability Employment Initiative, which is to assist the Job Center to become more effective at serving people with disabilities.

Disability Employment Initiative Update

Rich Sanders reported that the new employment program coordinator will be transitioning the Disability Employment Initiative over to the Employment Security Division and the Job Centers. The Employment Security Division was awarded \$1.5 million over the next three years through a continuation grant to expand their Ticket to Work program and disability services.

Rich Sanders stated that the Ticket to Work program continues to grow. They are approaching 25 tickets assigned. Rich commented that the goal is to have a couple hundred people on the program so that it starts to become self-sustaining by receiving milestone payments that go back towards paying the wages of the staff that are serving them if they choose to put those funds back into disability services, which is what Rich has encouraged them to do.

Rich Sanders shared that he has been invited to meet with the Commissioner of Labor, Diane Blumer, and the Director of the Employment Security Division, James Harvey, to talk about transitioning the grant activities over to them. He commented that the Council is always of the mind that it is good to lead the effort and be the resource, but it's best to turn it over to the state agency when they are prepared to take it on and integrate it permanently into their own systems.

Rich Sanders reported that the Council met last week and talked at length about the Employment First legislation and did presentations on what they are proposing based on the report from Legislative Research and other Employment First legislation. The Council will be working with Representative Millett and her staff to develop the draft legislation for review and input, and be ready to present it in November.

Alaska Mobility Coalition Update

David Levy reported that the Transit Conference is scheduled for October 22nd – 24th, 2013 in Juneau. He noted that there is still time to register for the conference. There will be a presentation from Senator Begich and Congressman Young via teleconference, and a prerecorded video presentation from Senator Murkowski and Lt. Governor Treadwell.

David Levy took a moment to encourage the individual committee members to join Alaska Mobility Coalition, as it is their annual membership drive. He noted that AMC represents and advocates for public and community transportation statewide. He noted that if anyone is interested in becoming a member, they can find out more information at the website, www.alaskamobility.org.

Review of the Adopted Committee Work Plan

Other Information for the Good of the Order

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

- 2013 Alaska Transit Conference in Juneau, October 21st – 24th, 2013,
- Trust Mini Advocacy Summits:
Fairbanks, October 1st – 2nd, 2013
Palmer, October 8th – 9th, 2013

Anchorage and Juneau – to be announced

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment and Transportation Committee is scheduled for November 12th, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Sharon Miranda **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.